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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/477,164	01/05/2000	JORG BOROWSKI	A72204US	8780

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EXAMINER

CHANG, EDITH M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2634

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/477,164

Applicant(s)

BOROWSKI ET AL.

Examiner

Edith M Chang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15, 17, 19 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 15, 17, 19-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Jan 05 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6, 13, and their dependent claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because in FIG.1 lacking labels: add "data signal" to 16, "modulation circuit" to 20, "filter" to 22, "chip code" to 18, "carrier frequency" to 24, "A/D" to 28, "correlator" to 30, "dispersing code" to 31, and "error correction circuit" to 32 as described in specification page 7. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 6 line 27, "a receiver 14", the numeral 14 is not shown in the drawing. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 5 is objected to because of the following informalities: It suggests to add the legend of k cited in the claim as it appears in the claim first time. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-2, 6-7, 11, 13, 15, & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belotserkovsky et al. (US 6621857 B1) in view of Kaku et al. (US 5548613).

Regarding **claim 1**, except explicitly specify the chip rate in the correlator, Belotserkovsky et al. disclose all subject matter: a method (FIG.5) comprising receiving a first signal having a first data rate (401 FIG.4, 401 FIG.5, column 2 lines 20-25, lines 59-62 wherein the first rate is the sample rate, FIG.7 shows the first rate/sample rate is 2x chip rate); determining, based at least on the first signal, a second signal having a second data rate, wherein the second data rate is lower than the first data rate (404 FIG.5, the second rate is the rate of correlating/dispreading before providing the symbols); determining, based at least on the second signal, a third signal having a third data rate, wherein the third data rate is lower than the second data rate (SYMBOL DATA OUT from 404 FIG.5, SYMBOLS FIG.7, the symbol is the third data has lower rate than the second data performed in the correlating/despreading); determining a frequency offset by processing samples of the third signal (405 FIG.5, column 3 lines 50-55); generating a correction sequence from the determined frequency offset (430 FIG.5); and combining the second signal with the correction sequence obtained from the third signal to correct the determined frequency offset (403 FIG.5, column 4 lines 15-20). However Kaku et al. teaches the despreading/correlating performed at chip rate (column 1 lines 55-61). At the time of

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the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the Kaku et al.'s teaching in Belotserkovsky et al.'s correlator to despread the received signal in the chip rate as the second rate in the correlating to provide a despreaded direct sequence spread spectrum signal correctly to overcome the noise effect (column 1 lines 50-55).

Regarding **claims 2 & 7**, Belotserkovsky et al. discloses the filter and the step of filtering the determined frequency offset prior to the generation of a correction sequence (432 FIG.5).

Regarding **claims 6 & 13**, except explicitly specify the chip rate in the correlator, Belotserkovsky et al. disclose all subject matter claimed: a spread spectrum communication system comprising a plurality of receivers (FIG.1), wherein each receiver comprises: an RF signal receiver (410 FIG.4); an analog to digital converter (401 FIG.4, the converted digital signal having a first data rate, sample rate FIG.7); a downconverter converting the digital signal to a second signal having a second data rate which is lower than the first data rate (403 FIG.5 is the down converter, FIG.7 shows sample rate @ 2x chip rate wherein the second rate is the rate of correlating); a digital signal despreader to obtain a despread signal having a third data rate which is lower than the second rate (404 FIG.5, SYMBOL DATA OUT from 404 FIG.5, SYMBOLS FIG.7, the symbol is the third data has lower rate than the second); and a frequency corrector (405-430 FIG.5) comprising a feedback loop (430 FIG.5) including a frequency offset detector (405 FIG.5) for obtaining a measure of a frequency offset from the despread digital signal and a frequency correction generator (430 FIG.5) for generating a frequency correction and a combiner (433-403 FIG.50) for combining the frequency correction with the second signal to correct the frequency offset. However Kaku et al. teaches the despreading/correlating performed at chip rate (column 1 lines 55-61). At the time of the invention, it would have been

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obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the Kaku et al.'s teaching in Belotserkovsky et al.'s correlator to despread the received signal in the chip rate as the second rate in the correlating to provide a despread direct sequence spread spectrum signal correctly to overcome the noise effect (column 1 lines 50-55).

Regarding **claim 11**, Belotserkovsky et al. discloses the system is a code division multiple access system (column 1 lines 40-50).

Regarding **claims 15 & 17**, Belotserkovsky et al. discloses a timing circuitry communicatively coupled between the analog to digital converter and the downconverter to perform a timing correction function (420 FIG.4, 403 FIG.5, wherein the timing circuitry 402 is communicatively coupled between the ADC 401 and downconverter 403).

7. Claims 3-4, & 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belotserkovsky et al. (US 6621857 B1) in view of Kaku et al. (US 5548613) as applied to claims 1 & 6 above, and further in view of Kojima (U.S. Patent 5579338).

Regarding **claims 3 & 8**, Belotserkovsky et al. does not explicitly specify the mathematical argument needed in determining a frequency offset, however further Kojima teaches performing the mathematical operation (60-62 Fig.5, column 9 line 50-column 10 line 15) in the step of determining a frequency offset. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the operation taught by Kojima in Belotserkovsky et al.'s phase/frequency estimator to perform the mathematical operations required to generate the frequency offset to have a simple configuration of a digital circuit of a code-correlator of a SS communications system receiver (column 3 lines 54-60 '338).

Regarding **claims 4 & 9**, except specify the correction factor, Belotserkovsky et al. discloses the communication system is a code division multiple access communication system (column 1 lines 40-50). However further Kojima teaches the frequency offset is corrected by multiplying received data by a correction factor (62, 66, 69, 40-44, Fig. 5). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have the correction factor taught by Kojima in Belotserkovsky et al.'s method to generate the frequency offset to have a simple configuration of a digital circuit of a code-correlator of a SS communications system receiver (column 3 lines 54-60 '338).

8. Claims 5, 10, & 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belotserkovsky et al. (US 6621857 B1) in view of Kaku et al. (US 5548613) as applied to claims 1, 6, & 13 above, and further in view of Subramanian (US Patent 5361276).

Regarding **claims 5, 10, & 19-20**, Belotserkovsky et al. does not specify the mathematical form of the correction sequence, however further Subramanian teaches the correction sequence is equal to $\exp \{j\phi_{\text{offs}}(k)\}$ (column 12 line 60-column 13 line 60, the equation at line 60 wherein the $2\pi\Delta f(k)$ is the $\phi_{\text{offs}}(k)$) where $\phi_{\text{offs}}(k)$ represents phase offset value are interpolated from an average phase difference at the third data rate (column 10 lines 34-39, column 10 line 46-column 11 line 6, column 12 lines 45-55. FIG.4B, column 13 lines 35-45 wherein the correction sequence is at third rate, the interpolation is done at the third rate as in 402 FIG.4 '857). With the model provided by Belotserkovsky et al., at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to derive the correction sequence taught by Subramanian in Belotserkovsky et al.'s method to generate frequency correction to efficiently identify main and multipath return signals (Abstract).

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9. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belotserkovsky et al. (US 6621857 B1) in view of Kaku et al. (US 5548613) as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Bunker et al. (US 6314128 B1).

Regarding **claim 12**, Belotserkovsky et al. does not teach the local loop, however further Bunker et al. teaches the spread spectrum communication system is a wireless local loop link. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to deploy the Belotserkovsky et al.'s communication system in the wireless local loop link, not limited to military applications to reduce the interference (column 1 lines 13-25 '128).

Conclusion

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edith M Chang whose telephone number is 703-305-3416. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on 703-305-4714. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4800.

Edith Chang
December 23, 2003



**CHIEH M. FAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**